

7 Podsmead Road Gloucester

Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
Thomas Shalom Homes Ltd

CA Project: CR0423
CA Report: CR0423_1

September 2020



7 Podsmead Road Gloucester

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A	28 August 2020	Peter Busby	Alex Thomson	Internal review	QA	Martin Watts

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4. METHODOLOGY.....	5
5. RESULTS.....	6
6. DISCUSSION.....	6
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	6
8. REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	8
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing the location of observed groundworks (1:500)

Fig. 3 Photograph

SUMMARY

Project name:	7 Podsmead Road
Location:	Gloucester
NGR:	382680 216460
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	17–19 August 2020
Planning reference:	GCC ref: 16/00518/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	CAPOD20

In August 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a domestic housing development at 7 Podsmead Road, Gloucester.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In August 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 7 Podsmead Road, Gloucester (centred at NGR: 382680 216460; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Thomas Shalom Homes Ltd.
- 1.2. Gloucester City Council (GCC) has granted planning permission for the demolition of existing structures (sheds and garages), and the construction of new domestic dwellings (GCC planning ref: 16/00518/FUL). Condition 4 of this planning permission required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with the approved WSI (CA 2020).
- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by defined by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, GCC. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2020) and approved by Andrew Armstrong.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also undertaken in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The development site is approximately 0.3ha in extent and comprises the remains of gardens, garages and scrub land to the rear of Podsmead Road and existing thoroughfares. The site very gently slopes to the west lies at approximately 17m AOD.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) – Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods (BGS 2020). The natural substrate encountered during the watching brief comprised of clay containing lenses of sand.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site has not previously been subject to any archaeological assessment. As such, the following information is based on publically available information for the area surrounding the site.
- 2.2. The earliest activity recorded nearby to the site area dates to the Neolithic period. A flint axe was found c. 500m to the north-east of the site, and c. 1km to the south-west of the site a late Neolithic flint mace head was found (OA 2020). An excavation c. 650m east of the site recovered a number of flints dated generally as prehistoric (*ibid.*).
- 2.3. Roman activity has also been identified in the vicinity of the site. The Roman road running from Gloucester to Sea Mills is located c. 600m to the west of the site. Stray finds, including Roman coins (Gloucestershire HER refs: 1173, 1179 and 1193) have been previously been recovered in Podsmead.
- 2.4. The site lies in between three Anglo-Saxon/medieval settlements: Tuffley, Hempsted and Matson (OA 2020). Ridge-and-furrow earthworks are recorded within the wider area and some of these earthworks may be medieval in origin (*ibid.*).
- 2.5. The remains of a moat have been identified c. 450m west of the site and relate to Hempsted (or Podsmead/Podgmead) manor. Adjacent to, and probably associated with, this moated site, is a medieval drainage and field system (OA 2020).
- 2.6. Medieval or post-medieval quarries are recorded at Robinswood Hill and a number of springs and conduits are also recorded at in this area (OA 2020). These conduits indicate the possible course of the St Peter's Abbey and Greyfriars conduits from Robinswood Hill to Gloucester, recorded at c. 300-500 m to the north-east of the site (*ibid.*).
- 2.7. Cartographic evidence indicates that the area around the site was agricultural in nature in the late 19th century, with allotment gardens and subsequent residential development shown along Podsmead Road in the early to mid-20th century.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:
- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.
- 3.2. The specific objective of the watching brief was to investigate and record any remains associated with the nearby Roman finds which may be exposed by the proposed development groundworks.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by an archaeologist of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development, comprising the excavation of building foundations (Fig. 2).
- 4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual.
- 4.3. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits required sampling.
- 4.4. CA will make arrangements with Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020).
- 4.5. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the site. The clay and sand natural substrate 103 was encountered at an average depth of 0.60m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural substrate was overlain by silty-clay subsoil 102, measuring typically between 0.24m and 0.34m in thickness. A number of animal (pet) burials had been cut into the surface of this layer, many in plastic bags or wrapped in blankets. The subsoil was in turn sealed by c. 0.33m of clay-silt topsoil 101.
- 5.3. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief and no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *Archaeological Background*, above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains pre-dating the modern period within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that remains associated with nearby Roman activity do not extend as far as the development groundworks.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby. This report was written by Peter Busby. The report illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The project archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Accessed 15 July 2020

Cotswold Archaeology 2020 *7 Podsmead Road, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

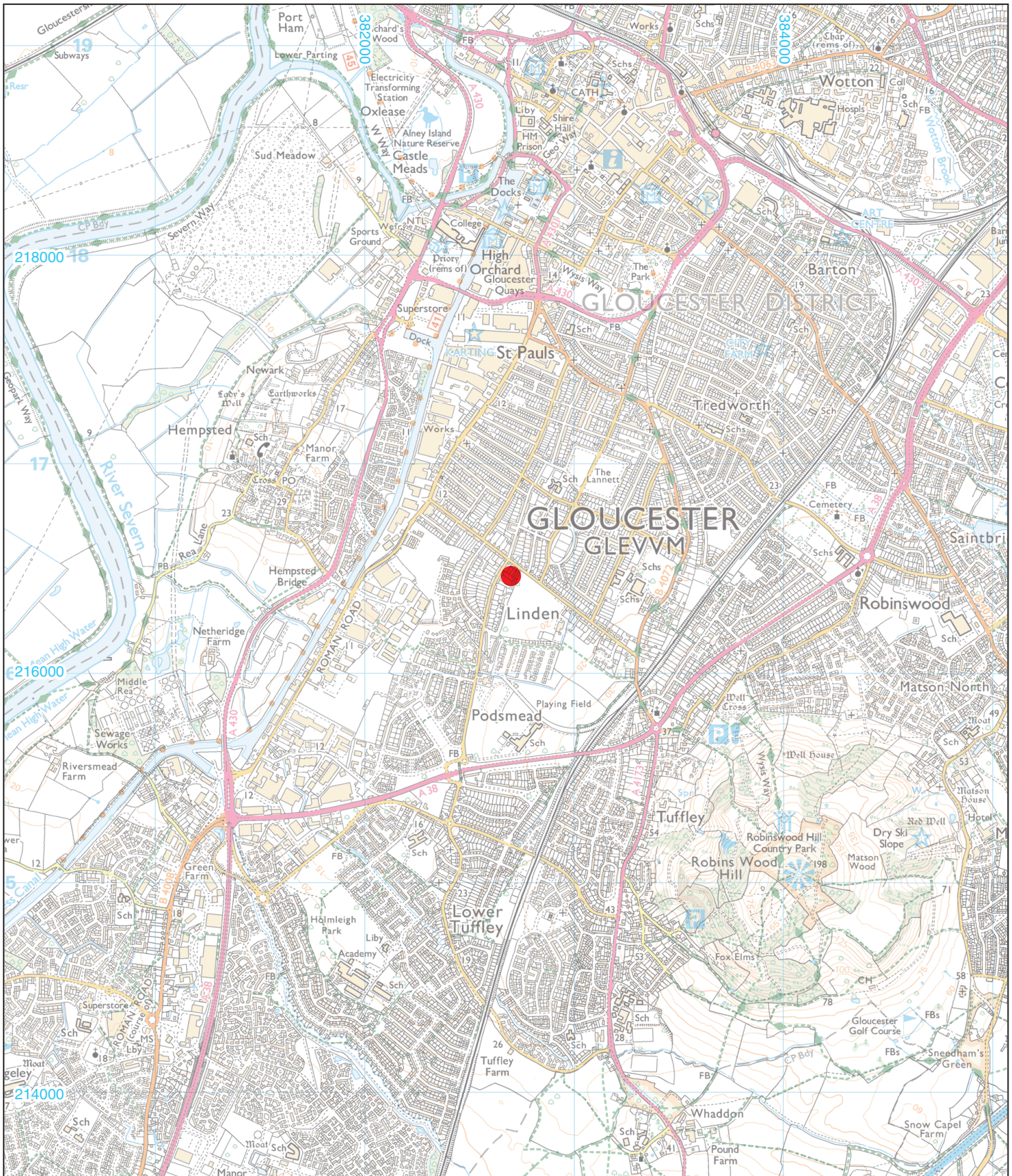
OA (Oxford Archaeology) 2020 *Blackbridge Community Sports Hub, Podsmead, Gloucester: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. Report no. **7675**


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS


Area	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	101	Layer	Topsoil	Dark brown/black clay silt with up to 5% brick fragments, plastic, wire, metal piping, concrete rubble, etc.	>35	>13.5	0.33
1	102	Layer	Subsoil	Orange brown silt clay with <1% coal fragments/lumps, brick fragments.	>35	>13.5	0.34
1	103	Layer	Natural Substrate	Blue clay capped with degraded clay and sand lenses	>35	>13.5	>1.33


APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	7 Podsmead Road, Gloucester	
Short description	In August 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a domestic housing development at 7 Podsmead Road, Gloucester. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	17–19 August 2020	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	7 Podsmead Road, Gloucester	
Study area	0.3ha	
Site co-ordinates	382680 216460	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Digital	Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery	Digital photos, etc.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 <i>7 Podsmead Road, Gloucester: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report CR0423_1		



 Site location





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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



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PROJECT TITLE
 7 Podsmead Road, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY AW CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY PB	PROJECT NO. CR0423 DATE 03.09.20 SCALE @A4 1:25,000	FIGURE NO. 1
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- Site boundary
- Observed groundworks

0 1:500 25m



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PROJECT TITLE

7 Podsmead Road, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing the location of observed groundworks

DRAWN BY **AW** PROJECT NO. **CR0423**
 CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **03.09.20**
 APPROVED BY **PB** SCALE@A4 **1:500**

FIGURE NO.

2



Trench 1 after ground reduction, looking south-east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

7 Podsmead Road, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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 CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **03.09.20**
 APPROVED BY **PB** SCALE@A4 **NA**

FIGURE NO.

3

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